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State Campuses Say CIA Isn't a Local Issue

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ANN ARBOR — Student

leaders at two Michigan campuses today said that support of the National Student Association (NSA) by the Central Intelligence Agency is entirely believable, while noting that it had little to do with their schools.

"It could be that CIA is funneling money to NSA through foundations," said Edward N. Robinson, a University of Michigan senior from Haverford, Pa., who is president of that school's Student Government Council.

But Robinson and other student leaders stressed that the matter primarily involves NSA's international organization, whose task is liaison with foreign student groups.

The international wing is not directly represented on campus, Robinson said, "so it (the charges) really doesn't affect us at all."

Michigan State University has not been a member of NSA since October, 1965, according to James M. Graham, a Detroit senior, president of Associated Students of M.S.U.

THE DECISION then had nothing to do with CIA support, Graham said, "but was mainly a question of dropping a national affiliation that wasn't presenting us with our money's worth."

He said MSU's student government paid about \$300 a year in national dues to NSA, plus the cost of sending delegates to national conventions, "which is whatever you want to make it."

Graham said that he had been familiar with the story of CIA support of NSA for some time, and added that

"this thing could be seriously exaggerated."

"The international organization operates quite independently of local campus issues."

MSU itself — as opposed to its student organizations — was accused in a Rampart magazine article early last year of acting as a front for the CIA in the course of a civil assistance project in South Vietnam.

MSU NEVER directly admitted that five CIA agents were members of its police training program in South Vietnam, as charged, but did not deny substantiation from sources other than Ramparts magazine.

Robinson said that he attended NSA's national convention last summer as one of eight delegates from the U. of M. The number of delegates allowed to each member school, is based on total enrollment.

"I can conceive of the whole thing," (CIA aid through foundations), he added, "because I know NSA has made efforts recently to stay away from foundations that are obviously political."